

**What is claimed is:**

1. A computer program that when programmed in a computer causes the computer to provide the steps of:

- a) forming a 1<sup>st</sup> machine-readable indicia in an image layer on a media; and
- b) forming a 2<sup>nd</sup> machine-readable indicia in a protective overlayer that is identical in content to, and in register with said 1<sup>st</sup> machine-readable indicia.

2. A method of reading a media having indicia formed in a protective overlayer, said indicia having a physical topography that represents a machine-readable code comprising the steps of:

- a) reading the physical topography of said indicia by a machine so as to obtain information encoded therein; and
- b) interpreting said encoded information so as to obtain said information.